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CENTRALIA

FALL 2018 /// ARST243 ///

Department of Art+Art History
Bucknell University

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Located in the hills of Northeast Pennsylvania, Centralia is a former anthracite coal mining town. Disaster struck the town in 1962 as a coal mine fire, still burning under parts of the borough today, forced the evacuation of the majority of the town's residents.

ARST243 Graphic Design 1 students, under professor Eddy Lopez's guidance, were tasked with developing an ethnographic design assignment focused on the town of Centralia and its people. Each student visited and photographed the area, met and interviewed former residents of the town, and used this content to layout a four-page visual story for the magazine.

As a class, they were then tasked with developing a proposal to preserve the cultural heritage of Centralia, building on the work by students of professor Vanessa Massaro's Geography 326 class. The result is a visual design and ethnographic exercise, combining group and individual design efforts.

Cover photo by Madison Weaver.

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SHIFTING GEOGRAPHY

The fire which burns underground in the coal mines of Centralia dramatically shifted the world above it. This section aims to give a closer look into the shifting infrastructure and relocation of people as a result of the fire, and also a better understanding of the fire and coal region in general.

BY Emily McCarthy, Joey Altemus, Meg Westrum, and Teddy Dumbald

CENTRALIA BEFORE THE FIRE

During the 1860's and 1870's, Pennsylvania's coal region expanded dramatically, with the number of mine workers increasing from roughly 25,000 to 56,000. The Borough of Centralia was officially established in 1866. Alexander Ren, the founder of the town, had picked the name "Centralia," because he considered the town to be the "center of everything." At peak population, Centralia numbered 1,600 community members.

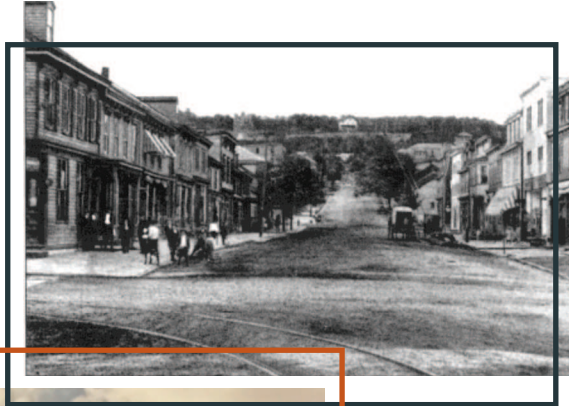
Pictured Top Right: View of Locust Ave, Looking North in 1913. Picture Credit: Centralia: Images of America

BEGINNING OF THE FIRE

In 1962, the coal fire began. Between 1962 and 1978, the federal government spent \$3.3 million on efforts to control the fire, but they could not manage to extinguish it completely. The

underground fire began to shape the world above it. In 1984, Congress granted \$42 million to relocate people because of the dangers caused by the fire. Over the next six years, homes and businesses were bought out and

demolished, and Route 61 was rerouted indefinitely due to the fire damages.



Pictured Middle Left: St. Ignatius Church. This church was knocked down in 1993 as a result of the fire. A few members of the St. Ignatius Church community still tend to the cemetery's upkeep, which still remains. Pictured Bottom: Google Earth image of Centralia today.



CENTRALIA TODAY

The only remaining infrastructure in Centralia today are three private homes, St. Mary's Church, and the cemetery of St. Ignatius church. Besides these remaining structures, it is nearly impossible to recognize that a blossoming town ever existed on the same land. Foundations of buildings have been wiped out completely, many sidewalks have been removed, and overgrown shrubbery masks any remaining rubble.

Former resident, Tom Hill, notes that the only way he can tell where his home stood today is the tree line.

The streets, once lined with houses and



businesses, today look like intersecting interruptions of a field.

Another former resident, Pat, had plans to raise her family in Centralia, as her Aunt and other relatives had called Centralia home in the past as well. When Pat was a little girl, she used to visit her Aunt in Centralia and go on walking tours of the neighborhood. "My Aunt used to walk me up and down the street when I came to visit, pointing to all the houses and telling me who lived there. It's upsetting that you just can't do that anymore."

As will be discussed later in this section, people were forced to relocate their lives to the surrounding area, typically staying within Pennsylvania borders. In addition, the

re-routing of Route 61 created the opportunity for visiting vandals to contribute their own work to Graffiti Highway, much to the remaining residents' dismay. Old Route 61 is now recognized as government property, and the signs surrounding the area read "no trespassing" and "stay out, stay alive" (pictured right). These danger-invoking signs, which were a result of the fire, stand in stark contrast to the vibrant, welcoming community that once lived in the area.

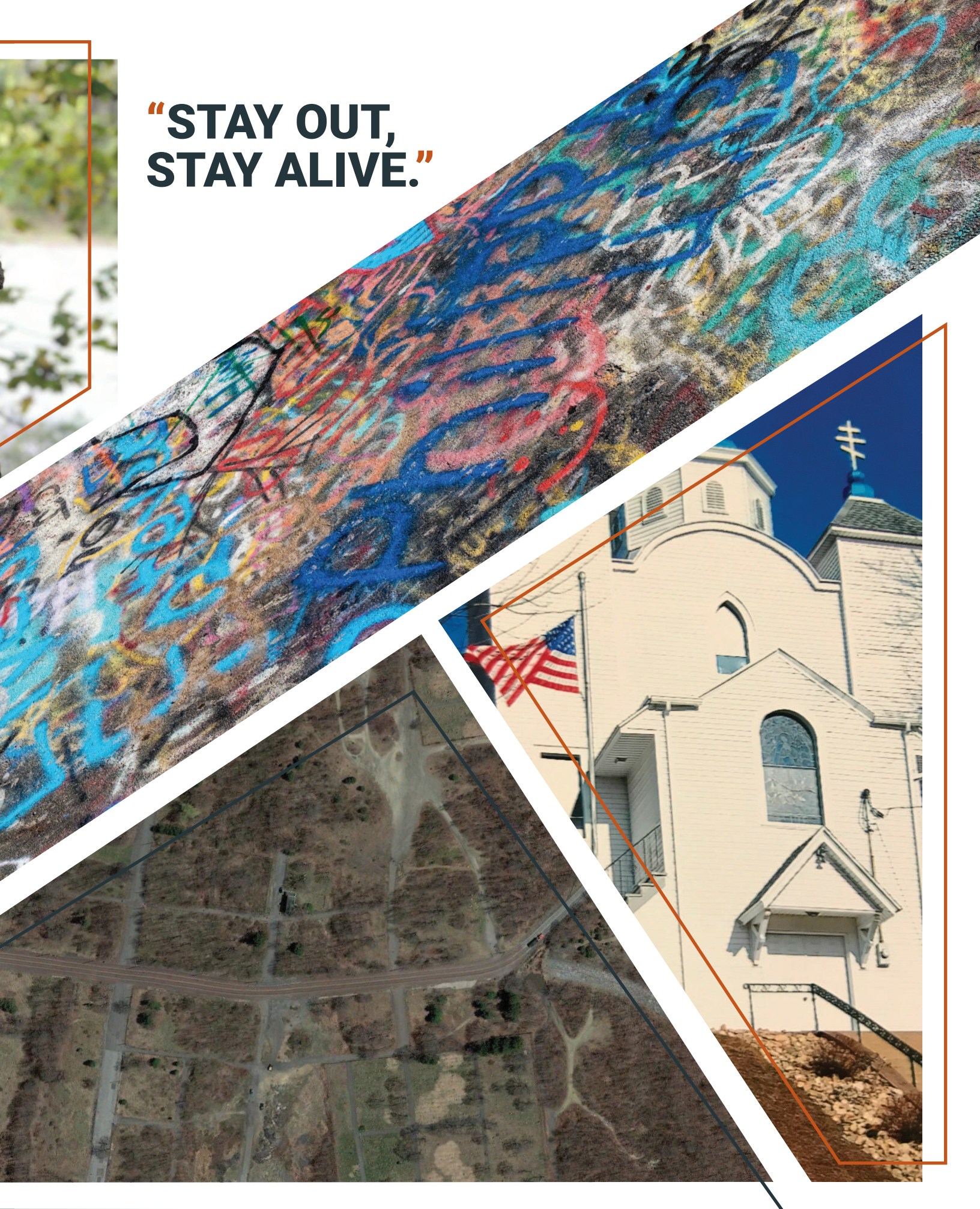


"MY AUNT USED TO WALK ME UP AND DOWN THE STREET WHEN I CAME TO VISIT, POINTING TO ALL THE HOUSES AND TELLING ME WHO LIVED THERE. IT'S UPSETTING THAT YOU JUST CAN'T DO THAT ANYMORE."

-Pat

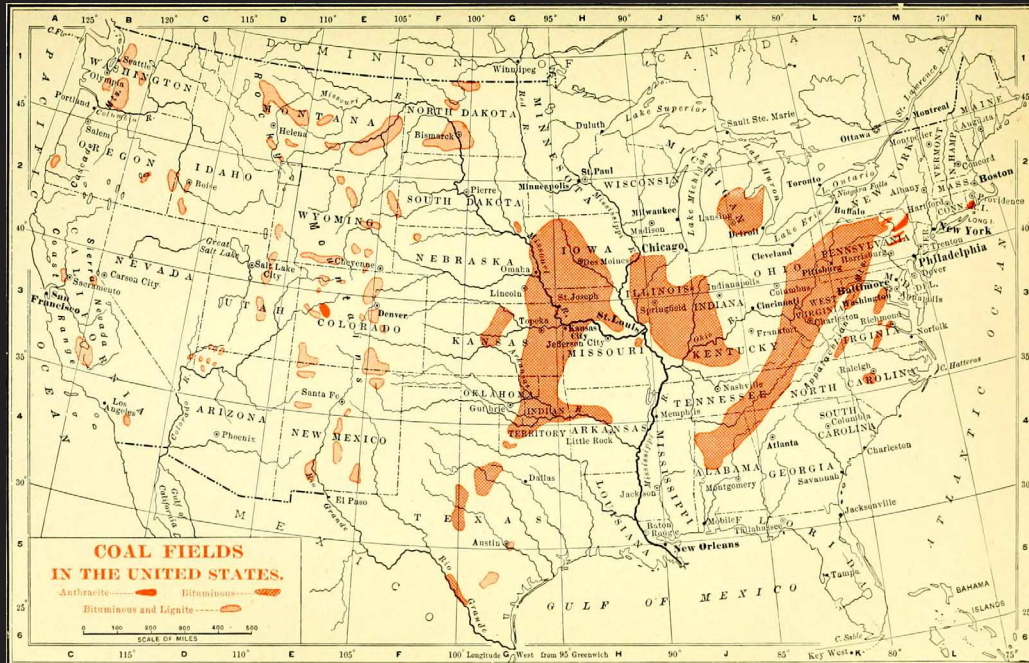


**"STAY OUT,
STAY ALIVE."**



FUELING CENTRALIA

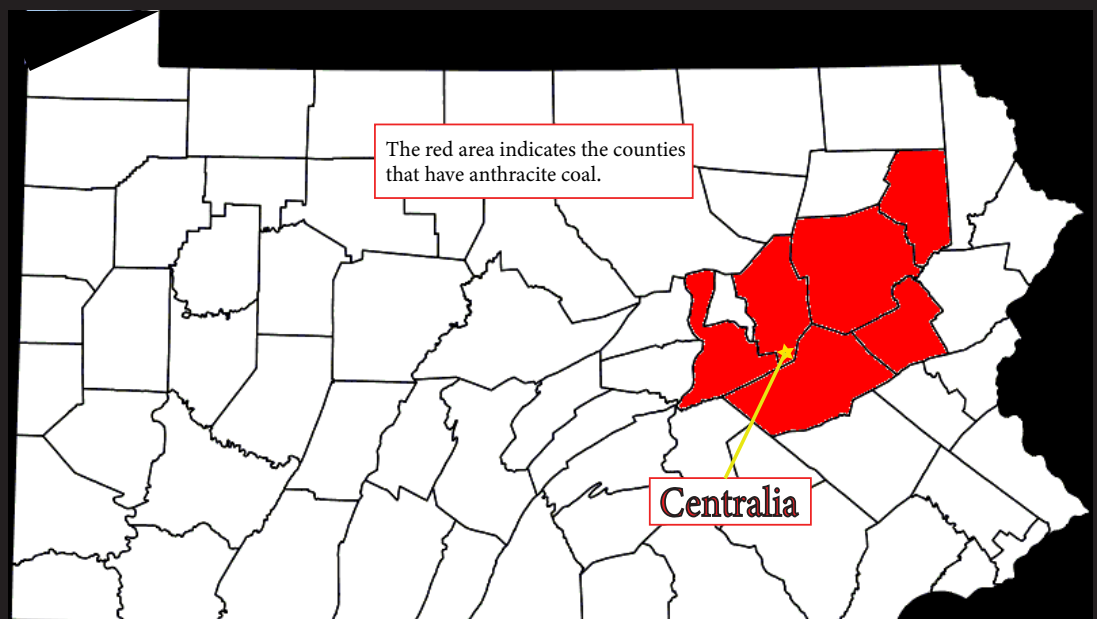
A look into what it was that made Central Pennsylvania one of, if not, the best coal mining areas in the nation. A look into what about Central Pennsylvanian coal made it so valuable, and a look into the geographical synopsis of coal in the United States.



Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:NIE_1905_Coal-coal_fields_in_the_United_States.jpg

Anthracite is very rare in the United States. Small deposits of anthracite can be found scattered throughout the Appalachian Mountains, and also some has been found in The Rockies in Colorado. The first anthracite found in North America was in Pottsville, PA. From that moment on, the industrial and institutional layout of Pennsylvania would never be the same.

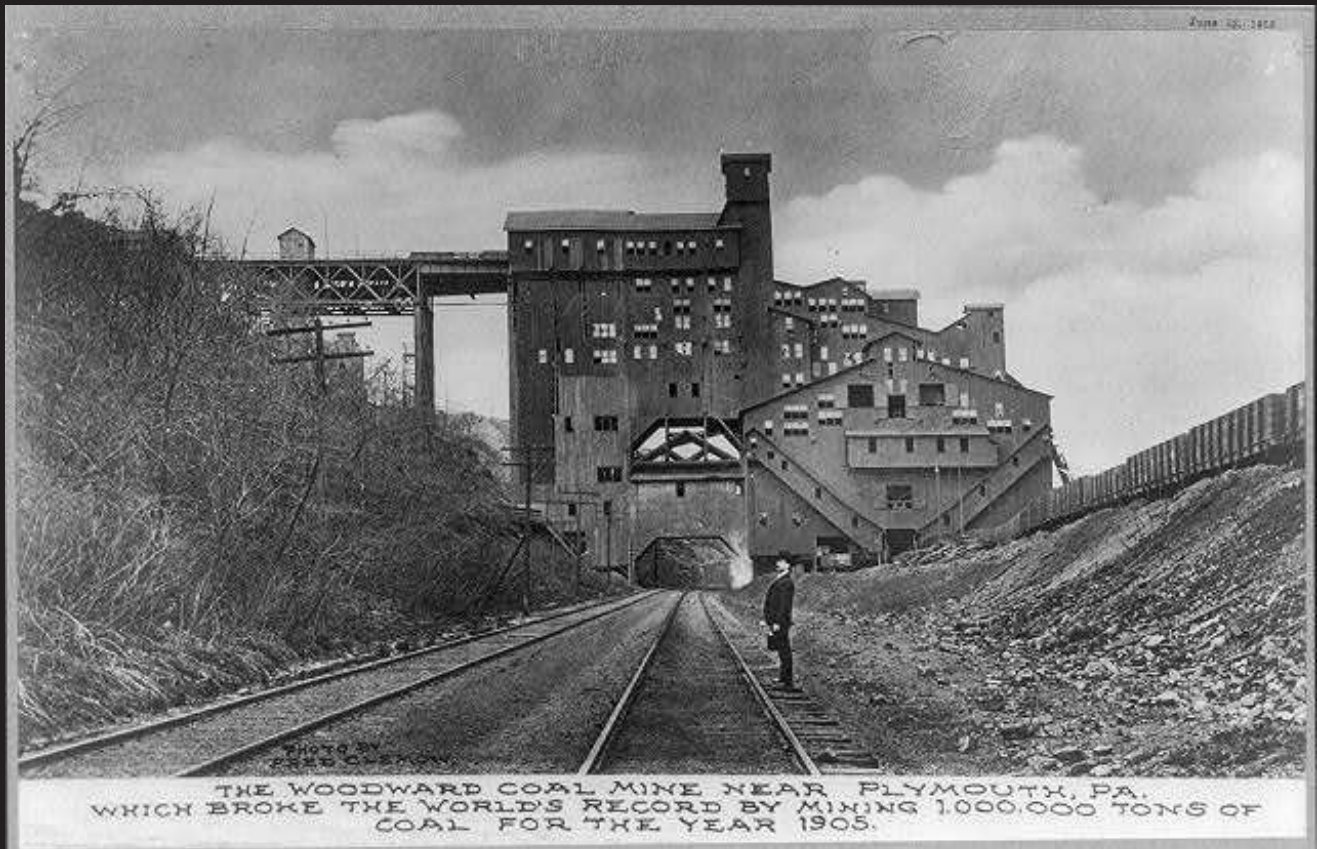
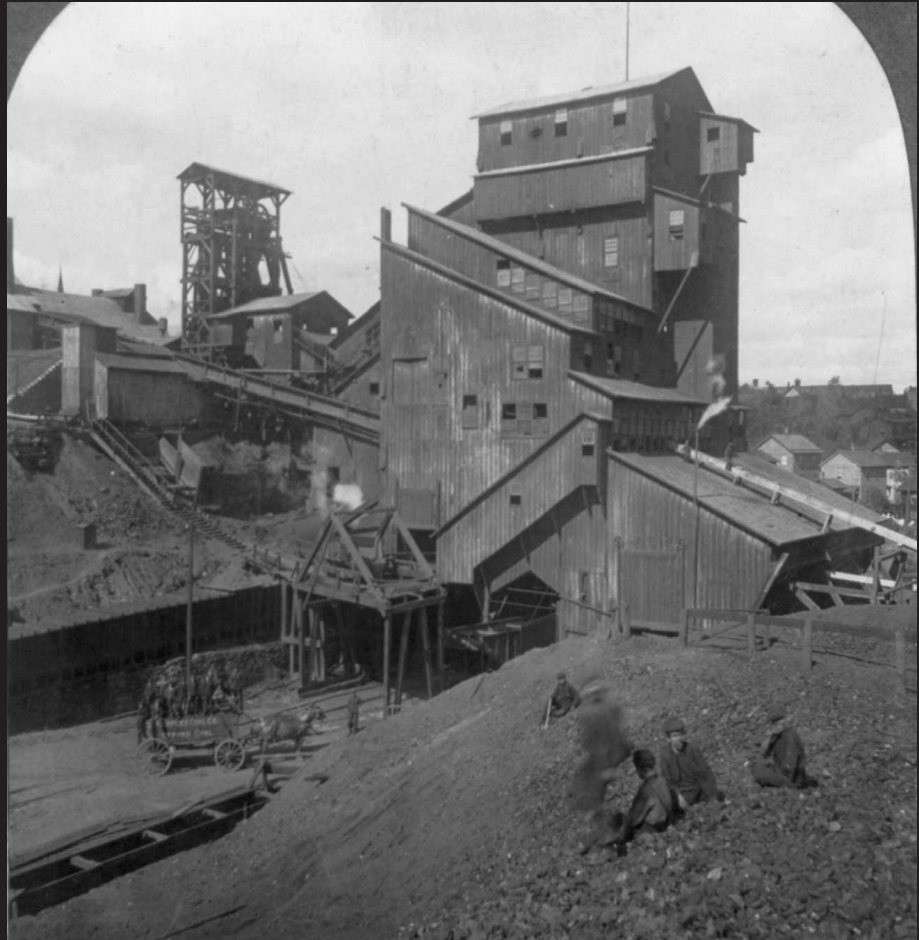
As you can see, the vast majority of coal in the United States is bituminous coal, which is considered to be the lesser of the two types of coal. It is this reason that the coal industry in Central Pennsylvania was so prosperous. It's practically the only place to mine for anthracite in the United States.



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coal_Region

The first commercially mined load of anthracite coal traveled down the Susquehanna River from Plymouth, PA, in 1808, a process that would be repeated continuously over the next century and a half, all across Central Pennsylvania.

Pictured to the right is the Scranton coal mine. Some of the anthracite that went through this mine, as well as from other mines in the area, was used to fight off the British in the war of 1812.



Source: <https://picryl.com/media/the-woodard-coal-mine-near-plymouth-pa-which-broke-the-worlds-record-by-mining>

BITUMINOUS COAL



Bituminous coal is commonly referred to as soft coal. This is because it is not very compact. If you were to squeeze it in your hand, it would crumble. Over the past century, it has been the most commonly used form of coal because it has been both readily available, and also cheap. Its carbon content ranges from 60-80%, and it is very high in sulfur. It is far from what one would call "clean burning." When it ignites, it releases lots of contaminants in the air, which is terrible for the environment. Over the years, it has become more

and more expensive due to the filtration process that comes with burning bituminous coal in our newly environmentally conscious world. Bituminous coal produces approximately 10,500 to 15,000 BTU per pound as mined, but it loses a lot of its burning power due to the filtration process it must undergo. In the United States, bituminous coal can be found most abundantly east of the Mississippi River in states such as Illinois, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jsjgeology/33554814475>

ANTHRACITE COAL



Anthracite is commonly referred to as hard coal. It is compact, glossy, and a much better form of coal in comparison to bituminous for a number of reasons. The carbon content for anthracite coal ranges from 92-98%. It is also low in sulfur and other volatile contents that are found in bituminous coal. This makes it extremely clean burning. When it burns, it gives off virtually no smoke. As you could imagine, anthracite is much better for the environment than bituminous coal. On top of that,

it burns much hotter and much longer than bituminous coal as well. This is due to the density of the coal. Today, anthracite is best used for energy production, as well as for household products such as charcoal briquettes, and in-home space heaters, due to the minimal amount of smoke anthracite produces. It burns up to about 900 degrees Fahrenheit (or more) and typically produces approximately 13,000 to 15,000 BTU per pound.

Centralia's Mine Fire



This map depicts a satellite image of Centralia with an over lay of an approximate 8 mile burn zone, as well as the origin of the fire, and spots on the surface of the earth that have been heated from the fire burning below.

Big Mine Run Rd

LEGEND



Approximate burn zone



Infra-red imaging of surface heat from 2009



Roads



Approximate origin of fire

Effects on the Land



Photo by James St. John, Flickr.

Centralia's underground coal fire has been burning under the town of Centralia, Pennsylvania since a supposed garbage fire ignited a coal seam on May 27th, 1962, nearly 57 years ago. The boundaries of these underground fires stretch for eight miles, and go down to depths of 300 feet. This is all underneath what used to be a prosperous town with hotels, family owned businesses,

and a thriving community. Because anthracite coal burns especially hot and slow, experts suspect it to continue to burn for the next 250+ years. As a result of the underground material burning away, the ground is extremely unstable and prone to sinkholes. The cracks in the infamous graffiti highway are a direct result of this.

CRACKS • SINK HOLES • STEAM



Photo by James St. John, Flickr.

As of May 27th, 2018, the coal mine underneath Centralia has been burning for 56 years, and it has taken its toll on the land above. One reason for this is because the mine shafts underneath the town have collapsed, and as more material that supports the ground gets burned away, the ground has collapsed in some areas, resulting in

sinkholes and cracks on the surface. Many of these cracks are visible on the abandoned "Graffiti highway". On top of this, the burning coal emits the harmful gasses. Carbon monoxide and sulfurous fumes began seeping out of the ground, therefore, it was dangerous to be around or even live near.

RELOCATION

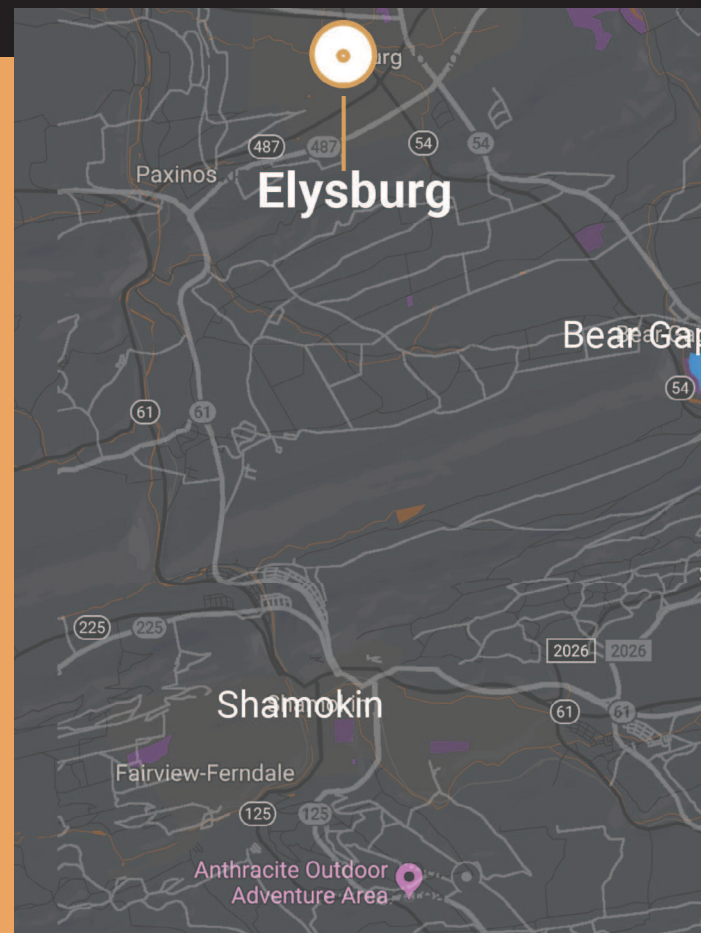
What Happened?

In May 1962 an underground fire was discovered in the borough dump. From then on, Centralia and its residents would never be the same. What was once a peaceful, yet lively, town is now almost entirely uninhabited and abandoned. This abandonment was kick-started 20 years or so after the discovery through the process of relocation.

In August 1983, a large majority of Centralia's residents had voted to relocate out of their precious town. In November of that same year, Congress appropriated \$42 million dollars for the voluntary relocation of those who chose to leave, leaving an impact area consisting of the borough of Centralia, the township portions of Centralia, and the villages of Byrnesville and Germantown. The approval of the funding marked the beginning of *The Centralia Mine Fire Acquisition Relocation Project*. Later, the Mount Carmel Highway (Route 61) was included in this area of relocation. Route 61 is now known as Grafitt Highway.

Today, about 95 percent of the households in the area of Centralia have, or are in the process of, being relocated.

WHERE DID THEY GO



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DID D?

The Process of Relocation in Centralia

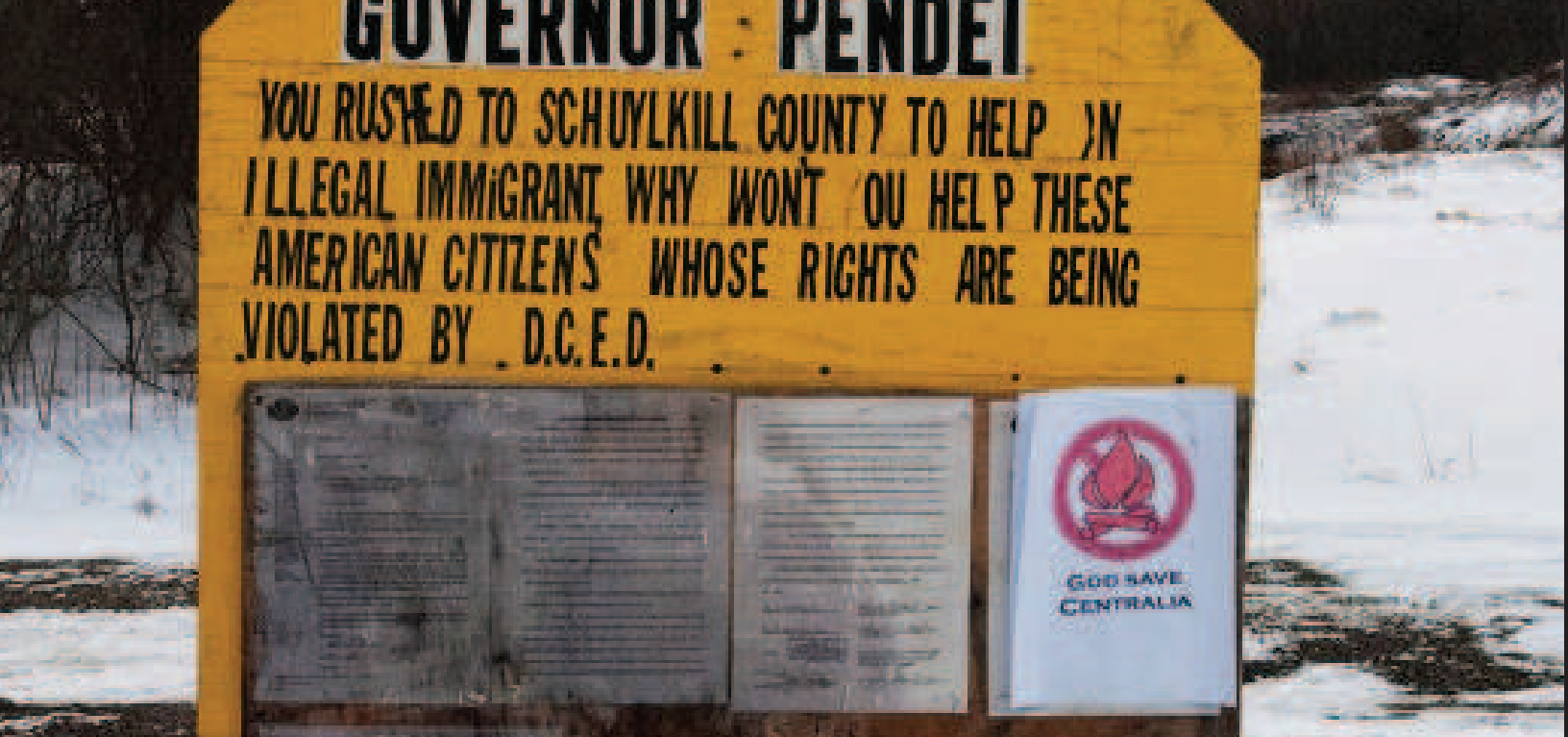
At first, relocation was voluntary. If a household expressed interest in leaving, an assessment organization would come to the property and start to appraise it. Afterwards, they would extend a fair market offer to the owner and provide assistance for relocating the household. If the offer was accepted, the family would be compensated and relocated, usually to a neighboring town. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania then took ownership of property.

Voluntary relocations continued for years. After the process of acquiring a household and successfully moving the family,

the home would be condemned, boarded up, and spray painted to indicate it was slated for demolition. In many cases, there were signs of a domino effect. This sent a clear message to their neighbors, causing others to leave too.

When enough homes on a block had been vacated, a demolition crew was brought in. They leveled the structures, backfilled the basements, and performed basic landscaping. Occasionally, the remaining row homes on a block would have to be buttressed after the neighboring homes were torn down.





Credit: Flickr/mstennett

“I was extremely angry to have to move from my home over things I had no control over, and I feel many people felt the same.”

Tommy Hill
former Centralia resident



In 1983 there were
550 homes in Centralia.
In 1986, only **50** homes
were still standing.

Credit: Flickr/cnovak



The images at the top of the page show the dramatic change in the Centralia landscape over the past 35 years. The images to the left visualize scenes of the demolition process. The image above shows a lone house in Centralia.

credit: <http://www.byrneseville.com/centraliapictures/>



Scenes of

Witnessing their beloved town turn into a giant wasteland was an extreme tragedy for the former residents of Centralia.

The town of Centralia has experienced its hardships and obstacles through the tragedy of the mine fire. With over 550 homes and businesses bought out and relocated, the town has been reduced to a mere four homes, one church, a graffiti highway, and six people left. However, the former residents of Centralia continue their loyalty and affection for their beloved homes, churches, and businesses throughout the region.



of Town

Aside from the physical remains of Centralia, the town is remembered for its close knit community. When asked about his favorite part of Centralia, current resident Harrold responds that “it is home. People nowadays view homes as if they are cars that they can trade out... that’s not my idea of a home. Centralia, however, has always been home for us.” When discussing the coal region with former Centralia

residents, they recall how everyone knew each other in the town, and it was like one large family. Kids could wander into their neighbors houses, and the doors were always unlocked. The former locals of the town reflect on the fun they had when Centralia was home, and how hard it was to relocate and start a new life elsewhere. One former resident commented on how he wrote on top of his house “I’m staying” for the government

to see as a sign of resistance. Not only was leaving their homes a major hardship, but also witnessing their beloved town turn into a giant wasteland was an extreme tragedy for the former residents of Centralia. In this section, we reflect on the transformation of the town and what is left today.

Source: www.centraliapa.org

Then and Now



When Centralia's population peaked in 1890, it had nearly 2800 residents. In addition, the town had two theaters, seven churches, five hotels, twenty-seven saloons, one bank, one post office, and fourteen general stores. Centralia was forever changed beginning May 27, 1962 when the underground mine fire was set ablaze. After burning for two decades, the fire inflicted danger to the health and safety of the people of Centralia. Beginning in 1984, residents of Centralia began relocating and in 1992, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania took control of all the property within the town. All remaining buildings were condemned and the residents were asked to leave. Today, Centralia lies as a ghost town, consisting only of streets, a few homes, several graveyards, and a church. With little remains of the once booming town, the mine fire still continues to burn.



At its peak, the town had

2 theaters,

7 churches,

5 hotels,

27 saloons,

1 bank,

1 post office,

and **14** general stores.



A Blue Dome & a Ghost Town

A fire burning hundreds of feet underground tore down a town once filled with life, and left a stark ghost town in its place. Few reminders exist of Centralia's golden days, but one timeless piece of Centralia remains standing strong. A blue dome amongst barren trees, the bright white Catholic Church stands tall.

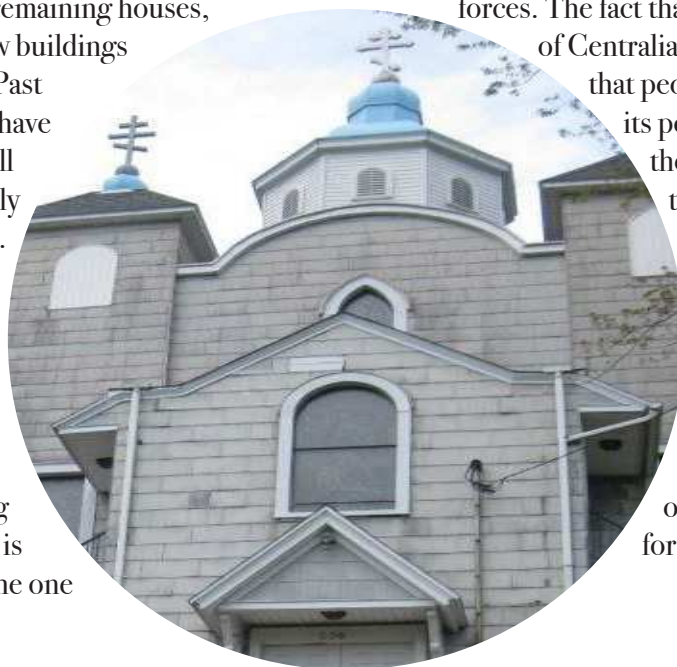
In such a tight knit community, this church was a center point and a means of bringing people together. Churches often serve as the core of towns, as institutions people rely on throughout their lives. From baptisms to communions and marriages to burials, churches carry people through life. This Centralia church was no different when the town was thriving, and remains a strong symbol even after the town died away.





Centralia originally had six churches, and one by one they were taken down as the town burned away. In 1986, the archbishop of this final church ordered a survey of the ground the church stood on. The church was resting upon solid rock, not coal, so it was salvaged. Along with the few remaining houses, this church is one of the few buildings still standing in Centralia. Past residents of Centralia who have moved a few towns away still come to the church regularly for mass and other services. The church serves as a remnant of what was once home to many people. Its ability to outlast not only the other churches, but the entire town, seems to give people hope and something familiar to come back to. It is especially significant that the one


standing remainder of Centralia is a church because religion has such a profound impact on people and their ability to have hope. Religion has historically been a force that keeps people going in hard times and serves as a reminder of bigger and more universal forces. The fact that this structure is the core of Centralia and also a religious symbol that people look up to only furthers its power and influence. Since the church is on stable rock, there seems to be no reason for it to go anywhere anytime soon. Hopefully, it will continue to serve as a remnant of home for past Centralia residents, and a reminder of the past for Centralia families and other visitors to appreciate for years to come.



Hold on to your Home

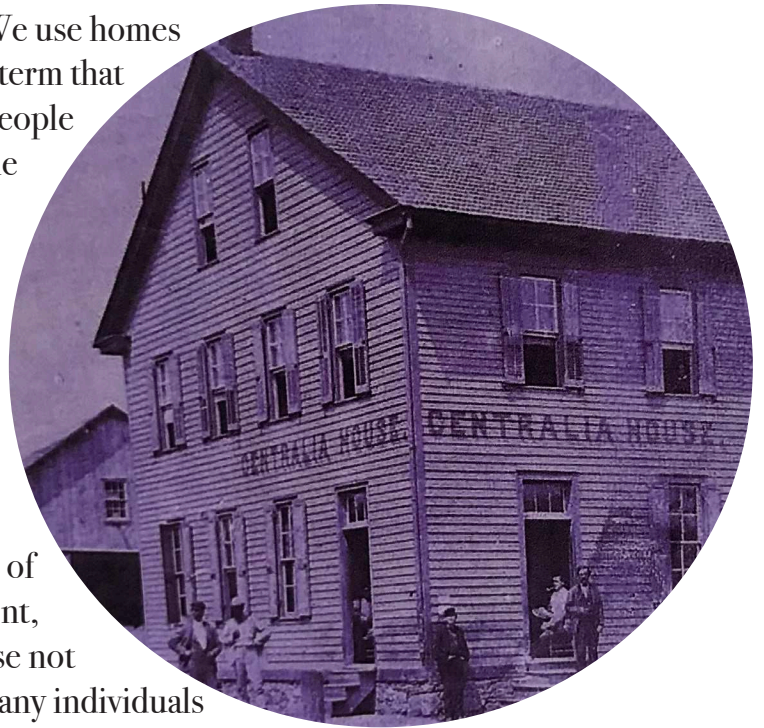
The fire burning underneath Centralia causes all sorts of dangerous natural incidents, like smoking cracks and spontaneous sinkholes. Residents sporting injured limbs and other injuries inspired the evacuation that led to the ghost town existence of Centralia today. Gases escaping from cracks in the ground built up in basements of houses and all around the town, and although they were not lethal gases, they still had negative impacts on the residents' health. With the help of government funds, and the eventual government ordered evacuation, people left Centralia to keep

their families safe. The vast majority of the town chose to leave, but some residents chose to stay in their homes. Some residents believed that Centralia wasn't as unsafe as the government claimed. As the government took over people's houses, they effectively erased old Centralia off the grid by tearing down houses, removing street signs, and the town's zip code. This essential removal of Centralia from history is being halted only by the residents who refuse to let their homes die.



“Humans are prone to become attached to locations and places that remind us of our roots and where we feel we belong.”

Home is a form of self definition for many people. Humans are prone to become attached to locations and places that remind us of our roots and where we feel we belong. We use homes to distinguish ourselves. Place attachment is a term that has been developed as an explanation to why people become emotionally and socially attached to the place they call home. Strong place attachment leads to better quality of life, better psychological health, and more satisfying social relationships. Often times, attachment to the literal physical location of a place transcends attachment to other people in the area. Physical surroundings play an important role in creating a sense of meaning and organization in our lives. It seems as though many residents of Centralia have strong senses of place attachment, which may be a reason why several people chose not to leave their homes. Centralia was home to many individuals and families, with many former residents still attached to the location they once resided in.





GRAFFITI



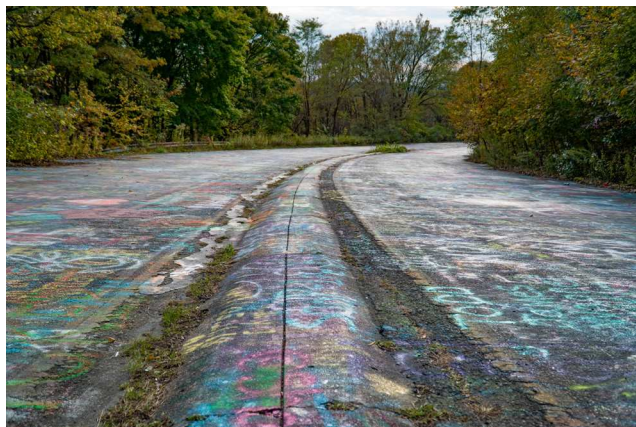
HIGH

WAY





Known as the *Graffiti Highway*, the one-mile road of Route 61 is covered in graffiti art.



The Centralia Coal fire began in the spring of 1962. In one area above the fire was a highway known as Route 61. The road remained open for some time, however the underground fire eventually began to have effects on the highway. The road was disrupted in structure with cracks and steam emerging from the ground. In 1992 the roadway was considered too expensive to repair from the after effects of the coal mine fire. In 1994, the remains of Route 61 that went from Centralia to Ashland were permanently closed for driving on. As a result of being closed and Centralia gaining more public appeal, in the 2000's tourists took to the abandoned highway as an open canvas creating graffiti art. By 2010, the highway was completely covered in graffiti and coined the name Graffiti Highway.





**“There’s more to Centralia than just
Graffiti Highway.
Reflect on the history of this place
while exploring the streets.”**





With the highway being completely covered in graffiti, individuals began to graffiti other parts of the town of Centralia. Spray painting street signs, trees, and abandoned places of the town started to become more prevalent. Though not many, the remaining townspeople and individuals that previously lived in Centralia are very disappointed that people would disrespect the town in such ways.



FACILE GENTILE

A LOOK INTO THE PEOPLE OF



DRADRA ALLIA

A SMALL COAL MINING TOWN

THEY CALLED C

ANNE MARIE DEVINE,
Mayor, Member of Cen-
tralia's Council

MOLLY DARRAH,
Member of Centralia's
Council; Songwriter



CENTRALIA HOME

SIS (CALLAHAN) COLLIER, Sister of Anne Marie Devine, 1954, Age 2

REVEREND ANTHONY J MCGINLEY, P.HD, Resident of Centralia, President of Residents to Save the Borough

THOMAS J. DEMPSEY SR, Centralia resident and historian



“Centralia was a small, friendly, outgoing community.”

An interview with Centralia's former resident Thomas F. Hill

Answers are condensed and lightly edited for clarity.

Name: Thomas F. Hill

Age: 68

Q: Where you live now:

A: Oak Ridge Estates, Mt. Carmel Pa.

Q: How long did you reside in Centralia?

A: I was a 30 year resident of Centralia from January 1959 to Spring 1989.

Q: Can you describe your early years in the town? What was the community like then?

A: My sister and I were raised by our paternal grandparents following the death of our mother in 1959. I attended St. Ignatius School until transferring to Mt. Carmel Area at the start of 8th grade. Centralia was a small, friendly, outgoing community.

Q: What are your favorite memories about Centralia?

A: I miss the friends and neighbors I had there who have been scattered here, there, and everywhere. I miss the Lilly, Heart, and Townie, area swimming holes. I miss exploring mountain trails, parties and dances, the Speed Spot, drag racing on the Centralia/Ashland Highway and dirt bike racing on the Moto-cross track friends and I built on the outskirts of town, and just hanging out.



How
would you
describe
Centralia
in one
word?

“

HO



Left: SS. Peter & Paul Russian Orthodox Church, East Park Street, 1940. Up right: Millard's Store at the corner of Locust Avenue and Railroad Street, circa 1905. Down right: Street View. Centralia 125th Anniversary Edition 1866-1991.

Q: What was your favorite restaurant or hang out spot in the town?

The only restaurant that I remember was called Ellen's, as all our meals at that time were home cooked. Boguslaws Service Center had a lunch counter and Hutnicks Store had the greatest cherry cokes in the world! The older guys hung out at Mickeys Hop corner on Locust Avenue & West Center. I hung out Zelusky's, Mikey Lutapsky's, and The Speed Spot. Later on, I spent time at The Fire Co., Legion, and Mary Wolchanski's cafe where many of the old miners spent time.

Q: How was the government's role in handling this, and how did people view it?

A: There was mistrust between the Borough & Township, and State &

Federal governments. State & Federal agencies passed the buck. No one was willing to accept the responsibility for fighting the fire, and it was put on the back burner until the fire grew too large. It could have been put out early on but no one would put up the money to do so correctly. It was here I learned never to trust a politician.

Q: Do you ever visit Centralia now?

A: I visit Centralia and spend time where the town landmarks stood and remember. I spend time in the cemeteries and visit the graves of family members and the many people I've known who have passed on and think of how great our little town was.

Q: How would you describe Centralia in one word?

A: HOME

ME”

"I was **12** YEARS OLD

WHEN THE **FIRE** started."

TOM SAID.



While he was too young to realize the gravity of the situation, he imagines the surprise that his friends and family must have felt when they learned about what was happening underneath their feet. They were facing an uncertain future.

Tom's family history in Centralia traced back generations. In the mid fifties, the family home on W. Center Street was destroyed by the fire; his grandfather, father, and aunt built a new home to replace it. Tom was very reluctant to

leave his family home, noting that for many generational families like his, leaving was never part of the plan.

"I'm Staying," reads the now famous sign that Tom painted on his roof. With all the news coverage of Centralia during the 1980's, Tom wanted his message to be understood loud and clear, even from the helicopters: he would stay in Centralia. .

Despite offers from the government, Tom was not enticed by money.

But after thirty years of fighting, Tom was forced to leave Centralia. "There are many wonderful towns in this area to live. I wished to stay in Centralia where most of the best memories of my life happened" Tom said. "Unfortunately I was unable to stay."

Tom now lives in Mt. Carmel, a nearby coal town in Pennsylvania. He says that moving was one of the hardest things he ever had to do, even now, nearly thirty years later.

“Moving
was one of the
HARDEST
things
I’VE EVER HAD
to do.”



“I think of how GREAT our little town was.”

Hearing stories from individuals like Tom who spent many years of their lives in Centralia emphasizes the importance of collecting stories, memories, and images of the town before they disappear entirely.

Former residents of Centralia emphasize the town's uniqueness and close-knit community. While growing up in any small town is a unique experience of celebration and loss; shops close, friends grow up and move away, and geographical shifts change neighborhoods. Many other towns, however, have

the privilege of reminiscing with neighbors who remain, seeing photos in libraries and public buildings, of growing and changing at a pace that can be well documented.

Centralia has never had that opportunity.

The names and nicknames of neighbors, the old shops and restaurants, the memories of local schools and churches are only remembered in the minds and photos of residents who have been scattered for years or even decades. Bringing the history of Centralia together under a historical or cultural

designation may open the opportunity for stories like Tom's, and all those stories intertwined with his, to live in on through the name of a town that was unceremoniously buried under ash and smoke.

Some former residents have difficulty seeing a future for Centralia past graffiti and vandalism. However, reminding visitors and former residents of the faces that once called this town home could turn a new page for Centralia, one that honors the memories forged alongside the coal.



People of Centralia Through History



- **Peak Population: 2,761 in 1890**

Current Population: 7 in 2018

- **Block Parties**

These parties were the main social events of the summer season in town and attracted many out-of-town residents as well

- **Mayor of Centralia during fire: Anne Marie Devine**



- **Lodges and Societies**

Centralia Lodge No. 586

Camp No. 106

Patriotic Order of Sons of America

Brothers of the Brush

Sisters of the Swish

Ancient Order of Hibernians

Eureka Social Club

The JOY Club



- **The Magnificent Seven**
Members of Centralia's Council were (front, from left) Maria Parkansky, Molly Darrah, Anne Marie Devine, (back, from left) Barbara Kenenitz, Mary Lou Gaughan, Marguerite Chapman and Helen Tanis

- **Historical Population**

1870	1,342
1880	1,886
1890	2,761
1900	2,048
1910	2,429
1920	2,336
1930	2,446
1940	2,449
1950	1,986
1960	1,435
1970	1,165
1980	1,017
1990	63
2000	21
2010	10
2018	7

- Breaker Boys inside the North Ashland Breaker, **1894**



- Centralia children roaming Lehigh Valley Railroad Crossing at North Locust Avenue, circa **1905**

- **Youth Organizations**

Boy Scout
Cub Scout
Explorer
Girl Scout
Brownie Troops
Teen Club

- **Patches and Villages**

Swamp
Rea's Hill
Gorrell's Patch
Freck's Patch
Dark Corner
Carter's Patch
Greenbush

- HuBert Eicher High School Band, **1944**



Ussie Wassie Chinky Pinky Hammy Chappy Taxi Maxi Bunthy Champy Staushy
Rosie Posie Trigger Chico Sonny Bunny Tonto Pushka Cubby Dubby Yano

A CENTRALIA CODE NAME Rock Bug Edge Sledge
Lumber Mugsey Bugsey Boots Barrel Buckets Bugler Mack Roundie Bessie
Slovie Wimpy MidgeSop Duni Proky Duke Pigeon Wando
Gus Stretch Luke Lizzie Tweet Dingbat Heads Bumper Candle

Motts Lefty Hairless Shoot-the-Cow Buller Bushman Sticks Dutch Shingles Stutzie
Duck Bear Bat Red Irish Murph Skip Funnel Conga Butter Custy Flip Chip
Sprigsy Flicker-the-Bird Goat Rope Cappy Simmy Timmy Dolly
Buttercup MickeySmitty Kaney Miles Smokey Leamer Kozy Callie Kitty Zulu V

BECOMES MORE POPULAR Cowboy Flea Meathead Rolo Mi
Hoover Shoupy Bongo Butch Punk Matty Coddie Pop
Rastus McGinn Cookie Bingy Bosco Jimbo Woody Kippy Mollio LittleDivi
Racer Topsy Tuba Belcher Lottie Peachio Sugar Cass Hop-a-Long Jet

Amos Duff Cheeksie Blackbook Jing Buddy Dev Abey Sarge Lips Hack Farn
Peanuts Monk Hudsie Wop Emmet Babe Boldy Chap CoalCrack
Koshka Remo Klem Mart OldJohn Mama Chas Shorty Dinky Ya
Slee Ta Timler Jeep Slimmy Shreek Mucker Pebo Henny Fusbie Beansik Petr
Matushka Puddey Lib Duko Buz Stumpy Jersey Mame Smool Medez
Frenchie MartyJack SmartyJack Tojo Ollie Fagen Mickey Waxash Teeny Meha Flirtzie
Gull Buns Flann Alie Dewey Dankie Jigs Harr Cotton

WITH THE TENDENCY TO Jay Simmel Mitzy Professor
Kimps Creamo Kasob Truckeem Rayme Pippie JackHammer Duddey
Frizzie Tex Squire Kuchee Pugee Spooley Fuzzie ToeJoe Slimmie C
Windy Hop Gumpsie Chum Bunco Dinny Downey JimBoy Soccor BillyGoat

Chassie Todor Bachelor Fishey Bullie Mushie BigFrank **FOLLOW ONE** Ballyu Cel
Shorty Rockey Motz Yousie Liver Edgeoh Eckey Donkas Polly C
Twinnie Angie NewYorkJack Skeezer Loll Kate Whitey Kaachey MoneyBags Egg
Chutie Eooku Pecker Hobby True-Blue Bandie Runt Cabbage Chow Bezzie

THROUGH LIFE BorderLine Buck LokieRunner Shrike
Showney Carbide Hippo Homer Rock Bug Edge Sledge Doc Sleepy Scrub
Bugsey Boots Barrel Buckets Bugler Mack Roundie Bessie Gassie Fronni

Midge Sop Duni Proky Duke Pigeon Wando Butcher Sausage Tobie TearAss Lig
Spook Gus Stretch Luke Lizzie Tweet Dingbat
Snubb Doggie Jono Hopago HayetzChookum Clemmy Chutie
FrogEye Koshka Remo Klem Mart OldJohn Mama Chas Short

Koungie Budda Wheels Rumble Lamby Satch Moose Rastus McGinn Cookie Bingy Bosco Jimbo

Yaushy Cobbler Killer Oxie Foxie Shebus Smiler Blicket Cricket Botchy Snooky
 dic Doggie Jono Hopago Puddin Moe Bo Showney Carbide Hippo Homer
 Doc Sleepy Scrubbie Gunner Pistol Binkus Blotches Big Joe Smo Miner
 Gassie Fronnie Scauldie Winger Gunk Primo Scotty Suel Bull Snick
 Butcher Sausage Tobie TearAss Lightning Chizler Shadow Spook
 Curley Tiny Skippy Coalie Chubby Basil BI Sniggles Sneakers
 Quartzie **WHICH IN MANY CASES** Ripper Pinto Blackie Chick
 py Gabby OurLad OurLady BigSteveTheCaptain Alabama AlimonySam Snakey Sledgo
 Cotton Pudd Pogie Bogie Chucky Ducky Doody Izzy Fireball
 Villsie Beanie Chlo Butt Gooch MadDog Chipper Doctor Chumley Hilly Willie
 ner+9er Con Dee-Dee Jake Cuffy Bouzer Speedy Chicken Sniper Junior Yoke
 Waxer Koungie Budda Wheels Rumble Lamby Satch Moose
 il Peepers Grandmere Tootsie Jacko Limpy Scubler Binney FunnyMan Ears
 Brothers Kit Bulgie Fritz Mickel Suppie Culpie Dobblers Weller Slim
 ner Uncle Chief Feka Stony **THAN THE PROPER NAME**
 er Liz KK Jumbo Owenie Bud Ag Bucksy Blondie FrogEye
 ns Pet Climber Maverick Johnkie Tuffy Hap Mocka Augie Heffer
 ro Redsey Frizzie Butcho Beesti Flo Bishop Fawthee Penner Hal Baxie Chink
 zzer Ciggie Ziggy Brick Mackeral Peepie Jingles Bobchi Pepka Kuma
 Kithy Rooster Sparky Cubb Grub Bebah IE Governer Punk Rainbow Sunchine Pudgie
 knee Pebow Heffer Cugey Dugan Meria Daisey Trish Dadzer
 Rabbits Dimples Cig Chestie Tessie Cassie Yondie Florry Padner Brockie Cletay
 Culyo Slug Handlebars Shocker Ishie Yishie Fringey Tab Fatso
 Oscar TinHat LouLou Ziggie Flash Yockey Saner Ferd Huffie Ockie
 Chubow Choothee Chomsie Diecher Tonser Dopey Moe Beattie Dearie Moses
 ebrityJack Stinger PopPopJack Toddie Blue-Cher Yurgee Nipper Raymos MaryBigMike Smiggles
 utey Cap Birdie Sheeko Milow Metch BigMike Moll Ike Doubles
 ie Ecku Slick Bopshie Snubb Doggie Jono Hopago Hayetz Chookum Clemmy
 Bart BigDick Scoop Pompatch Whistler Blackchew Kolo Mono Lawyer Patty
 e Spooko Lukie Sweets Lucky Abey Sarge Lips Ho
 bbbie Gunner Pistol Binkus Blotches Big Joe Smo Miner Lumber Mugsey
 e Scauldie Winger Gunk Primo Scotty Suel Bull Snick Slovie Wimpy
 htning **AND CREATES A FOND MEMORY** Chizler Shadow
 t Heads Bumper Candle Curley Tin Bopshie
 Eooku Pecker Hobby True-Blue Bandie Runt Cabbage Blondie
 yHoover Shoupy Bongo Butch Punk Matty Coddie Pop Waxer
 o Woody **WHICH GOES BEYOND** Kippy Mollio LittleDivil Peepers Grandmere

Past.



WAS the center

Present.



Future.

IT WAS SH...



The past cannot be changed... the future is yet in your power.

Of every thing.

Centralia was once a booming mine town, before careless behavior left the zip code eliminated from our maps. A promise of anthracite coal that burned “hotter and cleaner” brought people and their families from all around. The area peaked in the late 1800’s with a population of over 2,500 people, which was a lot especially for that time period. As mining continued, the area thrived and expanded; coal had brought prosperity to the region. Looking at its current state, no one would have ever thought that the town was filled with hotels, bars, markets, theatres, and churches.

The population dropped to about in 2000 people by 1950 due to the demand for anthracite coal dropping and mining jobs moving to other areas. Even though it was not as booming as in the beginning, Centralia was still a close knit town where people could happily and safely raise a family.

By one many met





Before.

“They come from everywhere to do this, atv’s, spray paint, steal”

-Harold, Centralia Resident

-Harold, Centralia Resident

by the Molly Maguires -

“People come from hundreds of miles to see paint on a road”



After.

by the Molly Maguires -



Centralia Faces a New Man-Made Epidemic, and It's Quite the Attraction

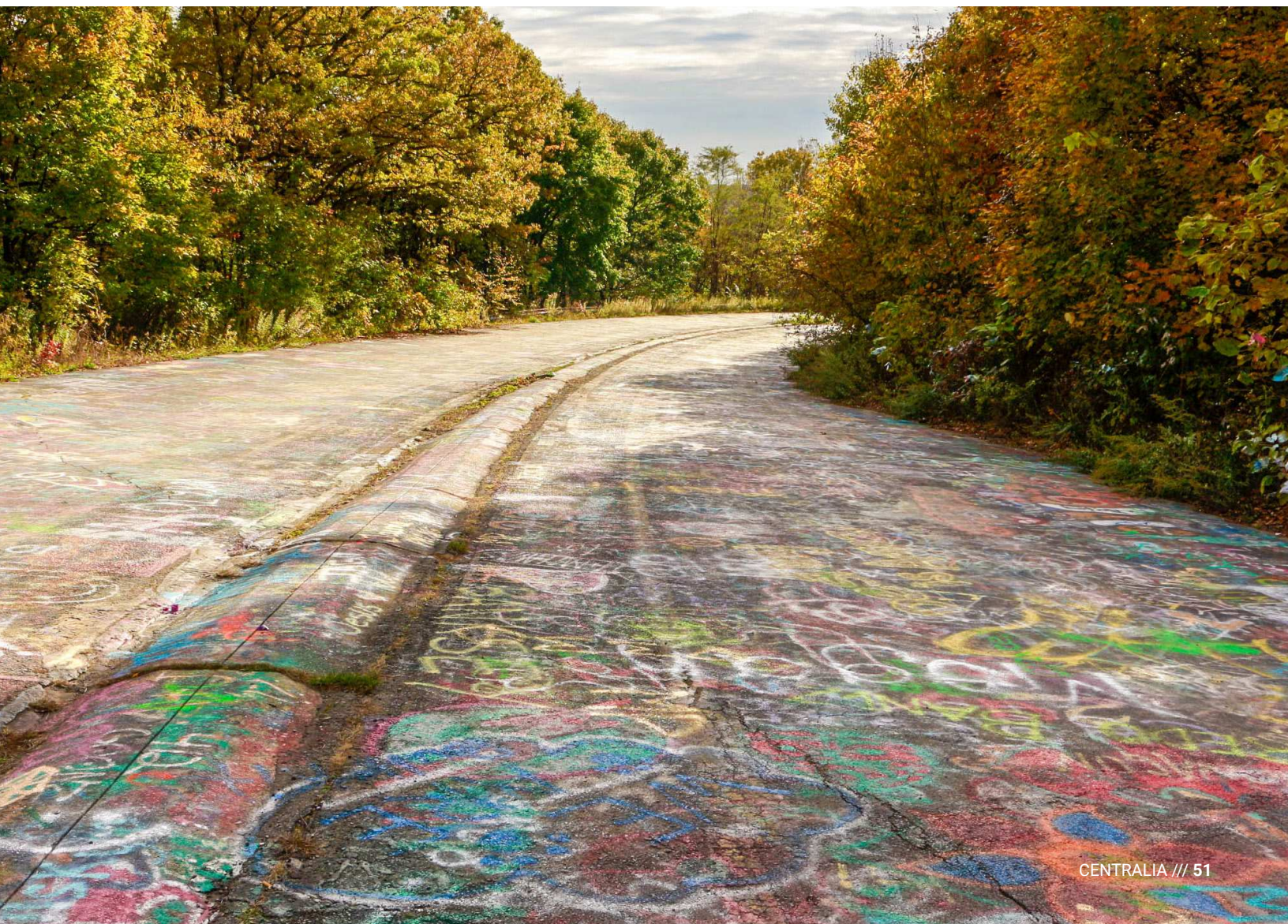
Presently, Centralia is facing an irritating problem that only brings grief to the remaining residents of the town

Centralia was once a quaint town similar to many of our own hometowns. Everyone was family, with one resident we spoke to stating that “Everyone was your parent.” Her name is Patty, and she was the most bubbly and enthusiastic person I have ever spoken to in regards to such a dark subject matter. She was elated to share her information on the anthracite based town. She once owned a salon on the main street of Centralia, but had ended up selling her business

before the mine fire started. Patty and a few other residents that came to meet with us discussed their prior lifestyles, where they worked, the atmosphere of the town, and their dreams of staying and raising their families there. She elaborated on her experience with moving out of town by describing how the government processed everyone's property, how they wanted everyone out safely. Patty had bought a plot of land to build her dream home on in Centralia and was unable to build it. So, despite no house actually being built on her plot of land, she still pays taxes on it. "It only costs me 30 dollars a year, but I pay taxes on that piece of rock" following that up with how stubborn of an Irish woman she is.

Patty elaborated further that the government was not interested in her property since nothing was built on it, ultimately refusing to buy the land off of her. "You (the government) didn't give me money for my ground. I wanted to build my dream house. You condemned it. And wouldn't buy it from me."

What's happening to her land now is deplorable. Vandalism ravages the bones of the town. Not only does "The Graffiti Highway", which used to be the main road through Centralia, draw in thousands of "tourists" every year, these "tourists" also deface whatever is left of the town. Spray paint covers every available stone surface peeking through the moss and vines that cover old foundations. Stones lining the





“You wouldn’t take my
land. You condemned it.”

“There’s spray paint everywhere, they steal rocks and headstones from the cemetery, they even stole the lock.”

highways are tagged with bursts of color, icons, symbols, and just about every hor-rific slur you could think of. Saint Ignati-us cemetery is one of the few structured areas left in the town. It has a rock re-taining wall and iron fences surrounding the entire lawn with a locked gate at the entrance. One of the residents we spoke with, Tom, mentioned how people were stealing rocks from the wall and even the lock from the fence. “There’s spray paint everywhere, they steal rocks and head-stones from the cemetery, they even stole the lock.”

When we were approached with this project, we were tasked with trying to devise possible ways of bringing in more tourists to the area to potentially increase the revenue of Mount Carmel and other surrounding areas. But after talking with the former and current residents, it pro-gressively sounded like an even worse idea to even attempt to pursue. They are far too upset to see their town be turned into a tourist attraction. Harold, one of the three remaining residents in the town of Centralia, has taken it upon himself to maintain as much as of the remaining pieces of town as possible. He joked that he was living the “bachelor life”. When we brought up ideas of outdoor activities for tourists to do, it was met with some dis-gruntled objections. “ATV’s are annoying. 2-3 a.m we hear them stirring up.” When we asked what happens to these people, he explained that they are technically on government

land, and that eventually (and hopefully) they can be caught and fined for trespassing.

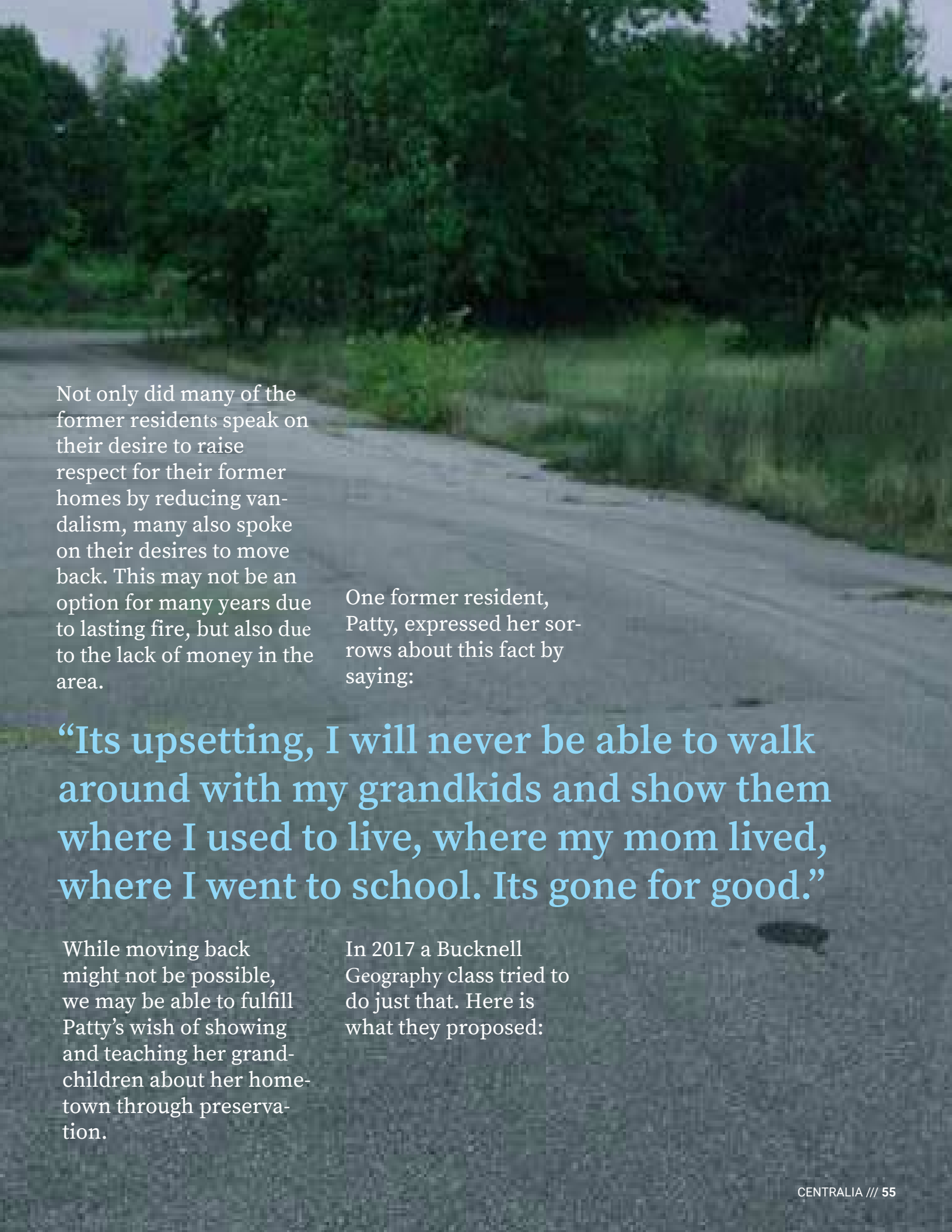
We wanted to know what kind of people typically heard of Centralia and made the pilgrimage to investigate the town itself, or to just have reckless fun. “They come from everywhere to do this. ATV, spray paint, steal. People come from all over to see paint on a road. I don’t get it”, Harold explained. “I had someone come from upstate New York and was asking me ‘Where’s the steam? The fire?’ I told him that was years ago, what you see now is what you get.” Seemingly, the remaining residents would rather see it turned into an educational site rather than an adventure park like many of us imagined. The vandalism, disrespect, and theft have left the town even more of a shell of its former self. Some say the art of the Graffiti Highway is beautiful, but the residents cannot even bare a glance at the road with how disrespected they feel about it. The lock to their sole cemetery stolen, retaining walls failing from stolen stones, and the ruthless amounts of graf-fiti are the last things the residents want more of in their town.





Where do we go from here?

The Future of Centralia



Not only did many of the former residents speak on their desire to raise respect for their former homes by reducing vandalism, many also spoke on their desires to move back. This may not be an option for many years due to lasting fire, but also due to the lack of money in the area.

One former resident, Patty, expressed her sorrows about this fact by saying:

“Its upsetting, I will never be able to walk around with my grandkids and show them where I used to live, where my mom lived, where I went to school. Its gone for good.”

While moving back might not be possible, we may be able to fulfill Patty's wish of showing and teaching her grandchildren about her hometown through preservation.

In 2017 a Bucknell Geography class tried to do just that. Here is what they proposed:

Bucknell University's Geography 326 Proposal: Centralia: National Heritage Site?

"In order to successfully preserve the land in Centralia, and establish subsequent tourism infrastructure in or around the borough, we are proposing three possible initiatives. These include but are not limited to a (1) preserved site, (2) state park, (3) cultural heritage site.

We recommend that the people of Mt. Carmel attempt to establish the anthracite coal region as a cultural heritage area.

There have been other success stories across the state, and the other regions are also tied to a history of resource extraction e.g. Oil Region National Heritage Area

The anthracite coal region is just as important, if not more important, especially in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Not only will this initiative shed light on Centralia, but also other boroughs and counties that make the coal region, as opposed to the preserved site which would only include Centralia or a state park that doesn't really place as much emphasis on cultural heritage when compared to the preservation of natural resources."



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World
Heritage
Convention

Tourism:

"Outdoor recreation is an enormous industry not only in Pennsylvania but around the country. According to a 2012 impact study from the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation generates billions of dollars in revenue; Outdoor recreation produces \$21.5 billion in consumer spending, \$1.6 billion in state and local tax revenue, and \$7.2 billion in wages and salaries. This industry sustains approximately 219,000 Pennsylvanian jobs. These are massive numbers, so let's break down the industry in terms of the plausible tourist sites Centralia can become:

State Parks and Preserved/Cultural Heritage Sites.

Pennsylvania Heritage Areas were created to preserve the unique history and heritage around Pennsylvania, much to the likes of Centralia. These sites frequently include museums, tours, and other infrastructure to benefit of the visitors. In 2014 the twelve heritage sites in Pennsylvania supported 7.5 million visitors that purchased \$2 billion worth of goods and backed 25,708 jobs. On average a heritage site provides around 2,500 jobs and \$14 million in tax revenue. The addition of jobs and tax revenue will certainly boost the economy of Mt. Carmel and other communities."

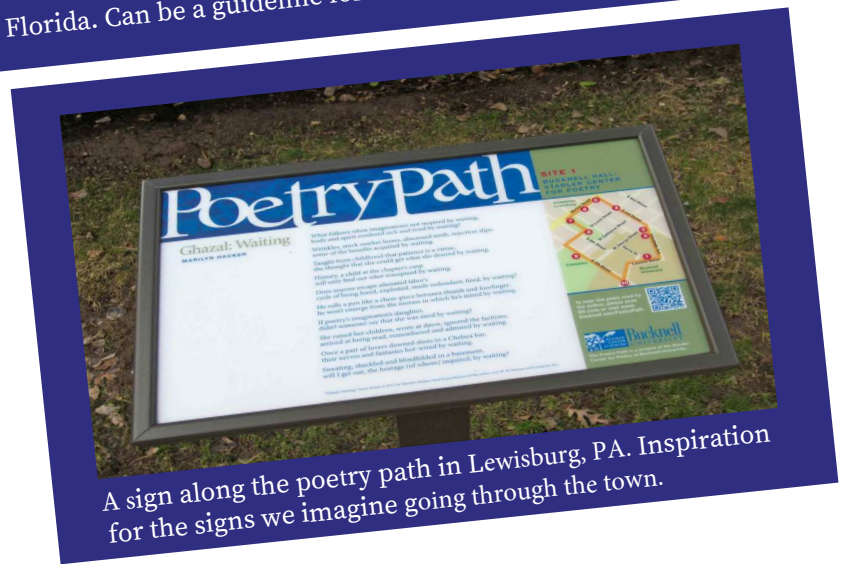
Excerpt from a Cultural Heritage Initiative Feasibility Assessment by professor Vanessa Massaro's Geography 326 class, Thinking Space: Critical Reflections on Research, proposed in spring of 2017.

A Real Learning Experience

The ideas Geography 326 bring up are smart and can easily work, however bringing in tourists with outdoor recreation may not be something the former residents will get behind. Many have shown their disdain for the ATVs that currently drive the town. Instead, a more educational form of tourism may be able to not only bring in some money in to the area, but more importantly teach thousands of people about the town and what happened there, including Patty's grandchildren.

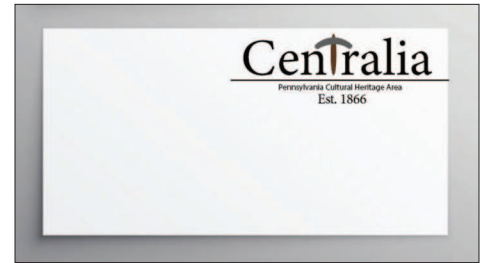
What we propose is as follows: We would like to make a walking trail, with signs in major locations to provide photos and information about what used to be there. An app can also be used as a guide throughout the trail. It can tell you where to go and even be used to scan QR codes on the signs to pull up extra pictures, info, or even sound-bites from past residents.

In the future we would like the app to incorporate Augmented Reality so tourists can walk around the town and see through their phone what the structures looked like. With the help of future classes we would love to see this project brought to life and hopefully bring some light to this lost community through education.



CENTRALIA CULTURAL HERITAGE VISUAL IDENTITY PROPOSALS

As a class, students were tasked with developing proposals to preserve the cultural heritage of Centralia. The result was a visual identity design exercise, combining group and individual efforts.



GROUP 1

*Kallie Kocinski, Michael Mufson,
Katie Salisbury*



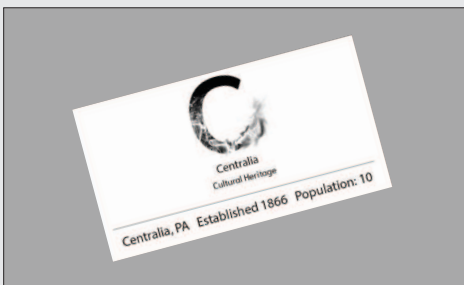
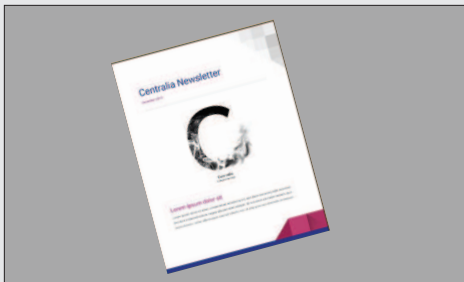
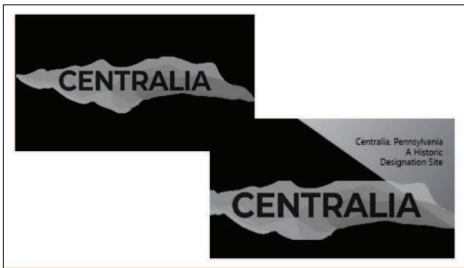
GROUP 2

*Joey Altemus, Teddy Dumbauld,
Meg Westrum, Emily McCarthy*



GROUP 3

Haley Sheridan, Madison Weaver,
Maya Ye, Ilana Shektman



GROUP 4

Ellie McLaughlin, Lydia Palumbo,
Gabrielle Petruso



Centralia
Cultural Heritage

CENTRALIA CULTURAL HERITAGE
VISUAL IDENTITY PROPOSALS
BRANDMARKS



Centralia
Cultural Heritage

Ellie McLaughlin



Gabrielle Petruso



Haley Sheridan



Ilana Shektman



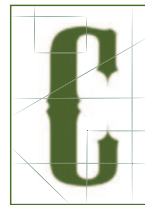
Kallie Kocinski



Lydia Palumbo

CENTRALIA

Madison Weaver



Emily McCarthy



Michael Mufson



Teddy Dumbauld



Joey Altemus

Centralia
Pennsylvania Cultural Heritage Area
Est. 1866

Katie Salisbury



Maya Ye



Meg Westrum



*Centralia residents and students dine at Mattucci's, Mount Carmel,
Nov. 9, 2018.*

SPECIAL THANKS

Harold Mervine, Centralia resident

Thomas F. Hill, former Centralia resident

Pat Chivodich, former Centralia resident

Joe Gaughan, former Centralia resident

Ann Marie Devine, former Centralia mayor

Jake Betz, Executive Director, Mother Maria Kaupas Center

*Shaunna Barnhart, PhD, Director, Place Studies Program,
Center for Sustainability and the Environment, Bucknell University*

Mother Maria Kaupas Center

Coal Region Field Station, Bucknell University

Center for Sustainability and the Environment, Bucknell University

Department of Art and Art History, Bucknell University

“ O Centralia, Centralia
A loving mother so dear
Nestled in a valley of
 emerald green;
Sparkling like a jewel in the
 summer sun
Bursting with autumn’s
 brilliant array of color,
Glittering like moonlight in
 the pure winter’s snow.

A loving mother, yes,
To all whom have gone before
 and are now
Just a memory in the dust,
To all who had to leave in
 sorrow and fear
And to all who bravely
 remained
And steadfastly endure.”

- *Marguerite Chapman,*
former Centralia Councilwoman

